22 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury, W. C.

London, July 26, 1867.

Dear Wife—We are back to our old quarters in this city, having left Glasgow on Wednesday morning, (from which place Fanny sent you a long letter,) and arriving here at 10 o'clock, P. M., a long ride of 400 miles. Our contemplated trip to the Highlands was completely baffled in consequence of the cold, rainy, dismal state of the weather. Fanny and Frank, however, bore the disappointment as became our children, without a murmur; indeed, Fanny was rather glad to set off for London, not having received her expected letter from Harry, and knowing that he would not think of writing to her again at Glasgow. I did not read what Fanny wrote to you; but I take it for granted that she gave you a sketch of all that had transpired up to the time she sent her letter. During our sojourn at the splendid residence of A. T. Stoddard, Esq., at Broadfield, Port Glasgow, 18 miles from the city, and commanding a magnificent view of the Clyde, and also a considerable portion of the Highlands, including Ben Lomond, we were most handsomely and

hospitably entertained from Thursday until Tuesday, when we came to Glasgow, and hired rooms at the Cobden Hotel (a very good one) in Argyll Street, so as to be able to take the train for London on Wednesday morning. Mr. Stoddard is a nephew of my old friend and benefactor, Arthur Tappan, and was brought up in his counting-room, and hails from Northampton; his wife being the daughter of the late Judge Noble of Williamstown. It was fortunate for us to have been thus kindly received; otherwise our hotel bills would have been very heavy. The cost of living and travelling is now every where very great. Three of us make a large aggregate. For instance, our ride from Glasgow to London, in a mean second class car, including hack hire to and from the stations, breakfast and lunch, cost us fifty-eight dollars — a big bill for one day. Tell William he must arrange financial matters, so as not to be taken by surprise in case I need further means; and that will unquestionably be the case before my return home. Very lucky were we to have been entertained free of cost at Manchester, Newcastle, and Edinburgh. But incidental expenses are large, even where more or less of hospitality is tendered.

My dear friend Andrew Paton was prompt at the station to give us his affectionate farewell, as he was on our arrival in Glasgow to give us a welcome grasp of the hand. He appears in good health, but his sister Catharine is very much broken, and was confined to her bed when we left. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson (with whom they live) called to say good-bye to us at the Cobden hotel on the evening previous; their daughter, "wee darling," (now taller and stouter than Fanny, but who has no recollection of Henry C. Wright, he will be sorry to learn,) and their son George accompanying them. We were sorry we had no opportunity to call upon them beyond taking tea with them the evening of our arrival.

Your letter of July 6th (enclosing a line from William) was awaiting our arrival here, as well as a good long letter from our dear friend Samuel May, Jr. You can scarcely imagine what pleasure it gives us all to learn, not only that your general health continues good, but that you are really deriving perceptible benefit from Miss Houghton's treatment. Still continue it until I get home, and as often as she may deem its application necessary; unless something unforeseen occurs. Do not consider the expense. Your restoration is of paramount importance.

We have hurried back from Glasgow, expecting to leave for Paris on Monday; but a letter from Harry to Fanny announces his intention to be in London by that time, to confer with us about our future movements. His father's serious illness makes it difficult for us to decide upon any plan, having in view his companionship in travelling, as he is liable to be called to Munich at any moment. It is now all but certain that Frank and I will remain in England until near the time for holding the Anti-Slavery Conference in Paris — say until the 22d of August — and then take the month of September to see Switzerland and the Rhine, and perhaps Florence and Rome. This will enable me to visit Birmingham, Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds, and other places, where there is a desire to give me a cordial greeting. I hope in this way to do something for the freedmen's cause, and to promote good will between the two countries. But I do not mean to hold any public meetings, except in the shape of a tea-party, breakfast, or soiree; for I did not come here to enter the lecturing field, but mainly for recreation.

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Harry will probably remain here a few days, and then go to Paris with Fanny.

The strong probability now is, that Fanny will not accompany me to Boston, but will remain on this side until Harry can go over with her; whether in all this year, or not until next spring or summer, will very much depend on the life or death of his father. This will be a sore disappointment to you, dear wife; but that I can mitigate by returning myself, with Frank, at an earlier period than we have calculated upon doing. You know my original plan was to sail from Liverpool on the 1st of September, or soon after; but, in order to make it possible for Fanny to return with me, I so far altered my programme as to arrange (with your consent) for returning at least the middle or last of October. Now, as it is pretty certain that I must leave her behind, anyhow, I will cheerfully abandon my contemplated trip to Switzerland, if you would be relieved by my presence, taking it for granted that the mountain scenery there is very beautiful and sublime, and feeling no disappointment whatever at not beholding it; for you know that, when absent from home, I am always ready to return without delay.

If we give up Switzerland, Frank and I can return home at the time originally contemplated — (he is quite willing to do so) — that is, as soon as the Anti-Slavery Conference is over. This will make a difference of ~~eight~~ seven or eight weeks, if we defer going till the last of October. Now, dear wife, you must decide this matter for us, according to your real needs and desires, and not according to your usual spirit of self-denial; for my heartfelt sympathies are ever with you in your crippled condition, and I hardly feel justified on being so far from you, and for so long a time, especially where only my recreation is concerned. There is another consideration, and that is a pecuniary one. Staying and travelling for seven or eight additional weeks, on the continent, will cost us probably not less than four or five hundred dollars; and this, with what I have already expended, with what must be spent between now and the 1st of August, and with the expenses of the household, &c., at home, will make a large sum in the aggregate. I wish William to give me his candid opinion about it, especially with reference to the money question. Let him cipher the matter out carefully, as he knows what the necessary family expenditures have been and must be.

It is barely possible, after all, that I may conclude to spend a fortnight in England, and another in Switzerland, before the Anti-Slavery Conference; and so leave for home about September 1st. On the third of September there is to be an immense Temperance gathering at the Crystal Palace here, express trains to be run from every part of the kingdom; and the managers are importunate to have me pledge myself to attend it, and speak on the occasion. There is to be a similar gathering of the United Kingdom Alliance at Manchester on the 15th of October, and they are expecting me to attend it almost without fail, if I am in England at that time. There is a steamer that sails from Liverpool to Boston on the 12th of October, and another on the 26th. In the latter, Mrs. Snow, of Fitchburg, expects to embark for home, with her son William; (her husband returned last Saturday;) and she hopes I may conclude to go over in the same vessel. It is very difficult to know what to decide upon in these conflicting circumstances; and I must wait till Harry gets along before coming to any definite conclusion about going to Switzerland. He will be with us on Monday evening.

Sarah P. Remond has called to see us since we came back. She thinks of going to Florence in September. She is looking finely.

Miss Estlin came all the way yesterday from Bristol expressly to see me — a distance of 120 miles. She has just recovered from a violent attack of hooping-cough, but is looking very well, and seems almost as young as in 1846. She is going with me this afternoon to Richmond, to see the Lovegels, Anne W. Weston, Anne Chapman, &c, and will return to Bristol on Monday.

Mrs. Thompson called to see me last evening, full of trouble, and I have promised to have a long talk with her to-morrow afternoon. Mr. T. is at Leeds, with his cousin G. E. Davisthorpe, and is improving in health. I know not what he intends doing in the future.

I hope to find time to answer Dora's kind letter by the next steamer. Also, two letters received from dear Henry C. Wright. There is no end to replying to letters here.

We are all in excellent health, and unite in affectionate remembrances to Julia Randall, Mrs. Johnson, Dora, Miss Cannon, Daniel and Lucy Thompson, Mary Willey, &c, &c, &c.

You shall be sure of a good shawl.

Adieu, dearest! Ever your W. L. G.

Give my special remembrances to Mr. Estlin and family.